



March 6, 2007

Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Dedication of Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funds for Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan implementation

Dear Ms. Doduc,

The undersigned local governments and non-profit organizations have worked to create Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans ("ICWM Plans") pursuant to Proposition 50, Chapter 8 (Integrated Regional Water Management Program, or "IRWM funds"). The ICWM Plans are meant to improve coastal water quality within Areas of Special Biological Significance, and serve as a key strategy in implementing California Ocean Plan objectives.

Implementing the ICWM Plans is critical for meeting the Ocean Plan discharge prohibitions in some of California's most ecologically sensitive coastal areas. In the spirit of integrated watershed management, many ICWM Plans also address TMDLs, flood control, stormwater runoff, and fisheries restoration.

For these reasons, the undersigned recommend that the SWRCB allocate \$30.8 million of remaining IRWM funds for the implementation of the ICWM Plans. The allocation of these funds will provide the flexibility to implement a watershed approach to nonpoint source pollution control. The ICWM Plans were created under the planning guidance of the IRWM program, and are best implemented using the IRWM funds. As we near the completion of the ICWM plans, it is critical that SWRCB provide financial support for the implementation of prioritized ICWM implementation measures.

We respectfully urge the State Water Resources Control Board to (1) allocate \$30.8 million of remaining IRWM funds for the implementation of Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans, and (2) to formulate guidelines for the competitive release of these funds under criteria appropriate to ICWM planning goals. This action is supported by all five entities that are currently working with SWRCB to formulate ICWM plans.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson, Executive Director
Mattole Restoration Council

Julie Hampel, Project Coordinator
Scripps Institute of Oceanography/University of California, San Diego

Robert Stein, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer
City of Newport Beach

Chi-Wei Lin, Mayor
City of Trinidad

Carlos Porrata, Chairman
Tomales Bay Watershed Council

Katie Burdick, ICWMP Project Manager
Tomales Bay Watershed Council